heating said graphite powder as a heat treatment to transform the crystalline structure to at least 80% by weight hexagonal crystalline structure and at most 20% by weight rhombohedral crystalline structure; and

further heating said graphite powder, at a higher temperature than said heat treatment to transform the crystalline structure, to eliminate impurities.

D1

2. (Amended) A method of manufacturing graphite powder as claimed in claim 1, wherein

the temperature of said heat treatment to transform crystalline structure to hexagonal structure is at least 900°C.

3. (Amended) A method of manufacturing graphite powder as claimed in claim 1, wherein

the temperature of said heat treatment to eliminate impurities is at least 2700°C.

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2~~3~~. (Amended) A method of manufacturing graphite powder adapted to be an active material of a lithium battery negative electrode, comprising the steps of:

D2

pulverizing raw graphite, to produce pulverized graphite having a crystalline structure which is at least 30% by ~~w~~eight rhombohedral crystalline structure and at most 70% by weight hexagonal crystalline structure;

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sieving said pulverized graphite to obtain graphite powder having a maximum particle diameter of 100 μm; and either

(a) heating said graphite powder as a heat treatment to transform the crystalline structure of said graphite powder to at least 80% by weight hexagonal crystalline structure and at most 20% by weight rhombohedral crystalline structure, and further heating said graphite powder, at a higher temperature than said heat treatment to transform the crystalline structure, to eliminate impurities; or

(b) immersing said graphite powder, into an acidic solution as an immersing treatment, washing with water, neutralizing and drying, to transform the crystalline structure of said graphite powder to at least 80% by weight hexagonal crystalline structure and at most 20% by weight rhombohedral crystalline structure.

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28. (Amended) A method of manufacturing graphite powder as claimed in claim 2, wherein the temperature of said heat treatment to transform crystalline structure to hexagonal structure is in a range of 900°C to 1100°.

29. (Amended) A method of manufacturing graphite powder as claimed in claim 3, wherein the temperature of said heat treatment to eliminate impurities is in a range of 2700°C to 2900°C.

9 ~~30.~~ (Amended) A method of manufacturing graphite powder adapted to be an active material of a lithium battery negative electrode, comprising the steps of:

providing graphite powder having a particle size equal to or smaller than 100 μm, and having a crystalline structure which is at least 30% by weight rhombohedral crystalline structure and at most 70% by weight hexagonal crystalline structure; and

heating said graphite powder as a heat treatment, or immersing said graphite powder into an acidic solution as an immersing treatment, to form treated graphite powder, such that the treated graphite powder has a fraction of a hexagonal structure of at least 80% by weight and a fraction of a rhombohedral structure of at least 20% by weight.

D3

10 ~~31.~~ (Amended) A method of manufacturing graphite powder as claimed in claim ~~30~~ 9, wherein the graphite powder has a fraction of a hexagonal structure of at least 90% by weight.

11 ~~32.~~ (Amended) A method of manufacturing graphite powder as claimed in claim ~~31~~ 10, wherein the graphite powder has a fraction of a rhombohedral structure of at most 10% by weight.

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15 ~~34.~~ (Amended) A method of manufacturing graphite powder as claimed in claim ~~30~~ 9, wherein the graphite powder is provided by pulverizing raw graphite; and wherein the graphite powder is heated to form treated graphite powder, and after said heating the graphite powder is further heat-treated, at a

D4

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D4 higher temperature than the temperature of said heating, to eliminate impurities.

13 38. (Amended) A method of manufacturing graphite powder adapted to be an active material of a lithium battery negative electrode, comprising the steps of:

providing graphite powder having a particle size equal to or smaller than 100 μm, and having a crystalline structure which is at least 30% by weight rhombohedral crystalline structure and at most 70% by weight hexagonal crystalline structure; and

treating the graphite powder such that the treated graphite powder has a fraction of a hexagonal structure of at least 80% by weight and a rhombohedral structure of at most 20% by weight.

Please add the following new claims to the application:

40 A method of manufacturing graphite powder as claimed in claim 1, wherein said graphite powder is in powder form during said heating as a heat treatment to transform the crystalline structure.

D5 41. A method of manufacturing graphite powder as claimed in claim 23, wherein said graphite powder is in powder form during said heating as a heat treatment to transform the crystalline structure, or during said immersing.

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42. A method of manufacturing graphite powder as claimed in claim 39, wherein said graphite powder is in powder form during said heating as a heat treatment, or during said immersing, to form the treated graphite powder.

43. A method of manufacturing graphite powder as claimed in claim 38, wherein said graphite powder is in powder form during said treating.